

IN THE UNITED STATES  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial No.: 10/510,936 )  
Confirmation No. 7097 )  
Applicant: Maunsell et al. )  
Filed: May 23, 2005 )  
For: WASHING APPLIANCE )  
WATER SOFTENER )  
Examiner: Jason M. Heckert )  
Art Unit: 1792 )  
Attorney Docket No.: )  
1170/42213/136 )

**RESPONSE TO THE RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action of September 5, 2008, Applicant elects Group I, Claims 1-10 and 18-20 *with traverse*. Applicant traverses the restriction requirement because Group I and Group II are linked and should proceed together.

The Examiner objected that the claims of the application lack a common novel and special technical feature, as the water softener in independent claims 1 and 20 is allegedly anticipated by the cited prior art.

None of the cited prior art discloses a brine pump located after a brine container and controlled to pump brine through a resin container with a duty cycle based on the supply water

hardness. As the cited prior art does not disclose each and every feature of the claimed water softener, they cannot anticipate the claims of this application.

Therefore, Applicant submits that the claims of this application are linked and form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.

A Petition for a One-Month Extension of Time to extend the date for response up to and including November 5, 2008 is concurrently filed herewith.

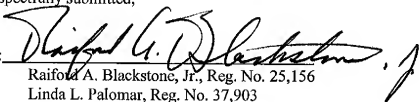
In addition, an Information Disclosure Statement is concurrently filed herewith. Entry and consideration is requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this Response, the Examiner is invited to contact one of the undersigned attorneys at (312) 704-180.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: Oct. 30, 2008

By:

  
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